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Winter, 1987
Volume Five - Number Three

MONTANA SOICC NEWSLETTER

Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee

MONTANA SOICC

Post Office Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59624
(406) 444-2741

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

DEC

Shed Some Light on Labor Market Information...

Attend an ICDM Workshop!

Practicing counselors can receive training on the availability and use of national and Montana-specific career, occupational, and labor market information through four upcoming Improved Career Decision Making (ICDM) workshops. The program's objective is to help counselors help individuals to make career decisions that better reflect the realities of the labor market.

The workshops are sponsored by the Department of Vocational Education Services, Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC).

OPI awarded the Montana SOICC a grant from Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act funds to conduct three ICDM workshops during 1988. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

Missoula Sheraton Hotel	**March 29, 30, 31**
Great Falls Sheraton Hotel	**April 12, 13, 14**
Billings Ramada Inn	**April 26, 27, 28**

There is no charge to attend the workshops.

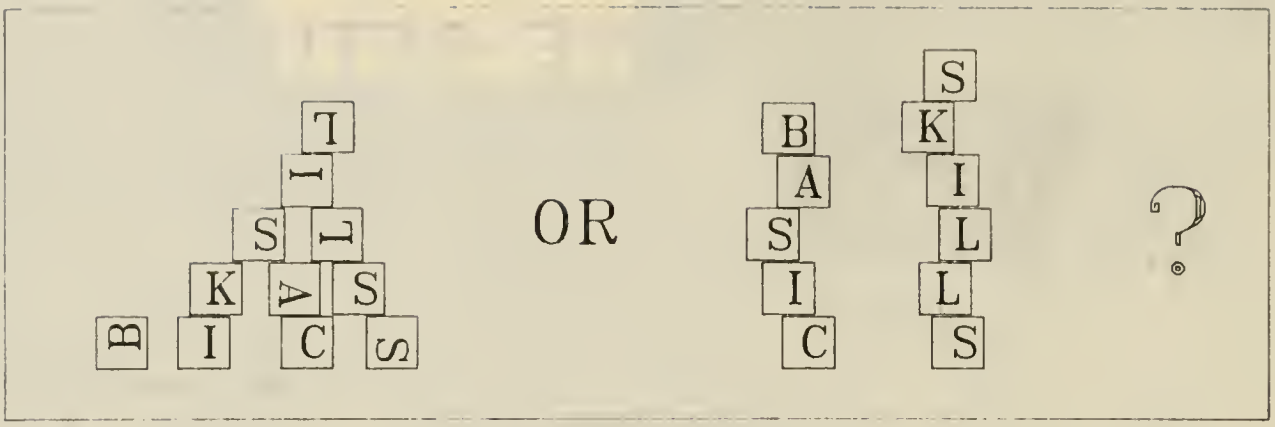
ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT AVAILABLE CAREER, OCCUPATIONAL, AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION IS INVITED TO ATTEND AN ICDM WORKSHOP. Anyone who has previously attended an ICDM workshop is welcome to participate again. Travel expenses must be paid by each of the employing agencies/programs.

Lodging rates of $24.00 per night (single occupancy) will be provided by host hotels/motels. You will be required to make your own reservations for lodging if necessary. To obtain a state rate, when making your reservations be sure to reference that you will be attending the Department of Labor and Industry ICDM workshop.

Credit for a continuing education course will be offered through the Montana University System. Northern Montana College and the University of Montana are offering one credit at the cost of $40.

If you are interested in attending one of the ICDM workshops, please complete the form on page 7 of this newsletter and mail to the Montana SOICC, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624.

The ICDM workshops will be limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis, so **REGISTER EARLY!**



The United States is facing a problem which threatens the economic health of our society over the next twenty years. While the size of the potential labor force is decreasing, the number of youth with basic skills deficiencies is inching upward. If this nation plans to remain competitive in an information society, something must be done to stop this creeping catastrophe.

National attention to the basic skills deficiencies among the nation's young people has grown due to recent research and statistics. Research shows:

- Every year, approximately 700,000 young people drop out of school and another 300,000 are at risk of not completing high school.
- High school dropouts are three times more likely to be unemployed than are graduates.
- Employers report that the vast majority of applicants for available entry level jobs are not suitable for those jobs. It is not technical skills that are most wanting...no matter what specific occupational skills an applicant may possess, employers look first for basic literacy and work maturity.
- High school graduates earn 60 percent more than non-graduates during their first 10 years out of school.
- An estimated 23 million Americans are illiterate, and another 23 million have severe reading problems.
- Nationally, one of every four students entering the eighth grade will drop out before graduating; the ratio jumps to two of four in the inner cities.
- Dropout estimates for Native American, Hispanic, and black youth range from 35 to 85 percent.
- This country's entry-level labor pool--14-24 year olds--is shrinking. Dropouts in this pool significantly increase training costs for business.
- In 1985, businesses spent $40 million to teach remedial reading, writing, and math.
- American citizens pay more than $75 billion a year in unemployment, welfare, and other costs for dropouts and their families.

Other research indicates that many factors play a role in whether a young person will drop out of school or not: academic history, social factors (incarceration, drugs, etc.), environmental factors (socioeconomic status, home support), and marriage or pregnancy.

"Without basic skills, people can't even get on the employment ladder, to say nothing of climbing it. They may not be employable." This statement by Thomas Sirarovich of the Mountain State Employers Council summarizes the essence of a new College Board study, "Academic Preparation of the World of Work." Based upon a series of dialogues involving business leaders and educators, six key skills were identified as essential for success on the job.

Reading - Able to read and follow instructions. Acquire a vocabulary related to the employer's business. Read visuals, graphs, etc.

Writing - Prepare memos, job applications, proposals, presentations, summaries, and reports. "Before teaching computer literacy, schools should teach how to spell."

Speaking and Listening - Able to speak on their feet, using standard English to organize thoughts as they proceed. Must verbalize instructions as received.

$E = MC^2$

Mathematics - Learn how to estimate and apply the results of estimation, interpreting results, and understanding consumer economics and mathematics.

Reasoning - Common sense, how to explore alternative solutions and interpret using data and other information.

Studying - Learning new information, including tracking and using notes on most essential information.

According to recent studies, approximately 20% of adults are functionally illiterate and thus do not have the basic reading, writing, and computational skills needed to function in our society. The problem is particularly severe for adult minorities. The illiteracy problem exists at a time when fewer jobs exist for those with little or no education.

Furthermore, many of the jobs associated with the modern workplace demand higher order analytical, reading, writing, and computation skills. Even lower entry level jobs demand a measure of literacy. Cleaning crews must be able to read schedules and basic instructions. All employees must fill out forms and sign papers.

Poverty, dropping out of school, and future employment opportunities are intricately tied to one another. Statistics suggest that breaking the cycle of unemployment as youth move toward adulthood relies heavily on keeping young people in school and providing work experiences that relate education to work.

The Task Force on Adult Literacy, National Governors' Association, has developed a **"Literacy Lineup"** to be used to help people acquire the tools they need to be productive workers in our society. The plan has seven parts:

1) Focus attention on the needs of adult learners so that those who drop out of school and those who graduate without basic skills can attain the skills necessary to become active participants in the world of work.

2) Find ways to improve workplace literacy by encouraging education and training programs in the workplace.

3) Foster cooperation between state government, the private sector, and volunteer groups in the assault against illiteracy.

4) Help literacy providers develop and obtain the best materials to help people grow and enhance their literacy skills.

5) Facilitate means by which parents and children can jointly enhance their literacy skills.

6) Follow through with existing efforts to reform elementary and secondary school education.

7) Formalize plans to help welfare recipients receive those basic literacy skills that will enable them to find productive employment.

Enhanced literacy skills will serve to eliminate one of the chief barriers to productive work and productive lives for many adults and young people in our country.

SOURCES: National Governors' Association "Labor Notes", November 21, 1986, #10; New Jersey Occupational Information Coordinating Committee "Newsletter", Summer 1987.

Military Returnees to Montana

Between April 1, 1986 and June 30, 1987, 482 people discharged from the military services planned to return to Montana. This number includes retirees as well as those completing a tour of duty.

Military Returnees to Montana
(by branch of service)

Army	199	Navy	103
Marines	49	Air Force	131

These figures are available by county in Montana. The returnees are classified by Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) code. If you are interested in more information, please write to the Montana SOICC.

MICRO-OIS UPDATE

The **Montana Micro-Occupational Information System (Micro-OIS)** was advertised in the last issue of this newsletter. For those of you interested in the Micro-OIS, there is a correction to note:

The Micro-OIS requires at least 384K Random Access Memory (RAM) to operate.

The **Micro-OIS** is available on "run-time version" diskettes for use on an IBM Personal Computer or IBM compatible personal computer. The **Micro-OIS** can also be installed on a hard disk IBM or compatible personal computer.

If you are interested in the **Micro-OIS** and have the equipment mentioned above, call the SOICC at 444-2741. **There is no charge for the Micro-OIS.**

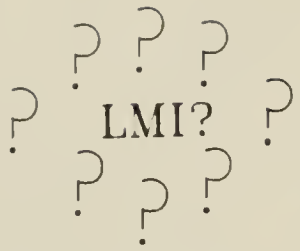
Career & Occupational Resources to Examine

Getting Along on the Job: A 62-page booklet providing group participation techniques to aid students on proper dress, asking for a promotion, accepting corrective criticism, showing consideration for co-workers, and dealing with grievances. $12 plus $3 for shipping and handling. AVA, 1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Working: A lively MTV-style videotape covering motivation for the job search, sources of leads, filling out applications properly, preparing for interviews, and how to act to keep your job. Lesson plans and two teacher manuals are also included. For further information, teachers can contact the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, One Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

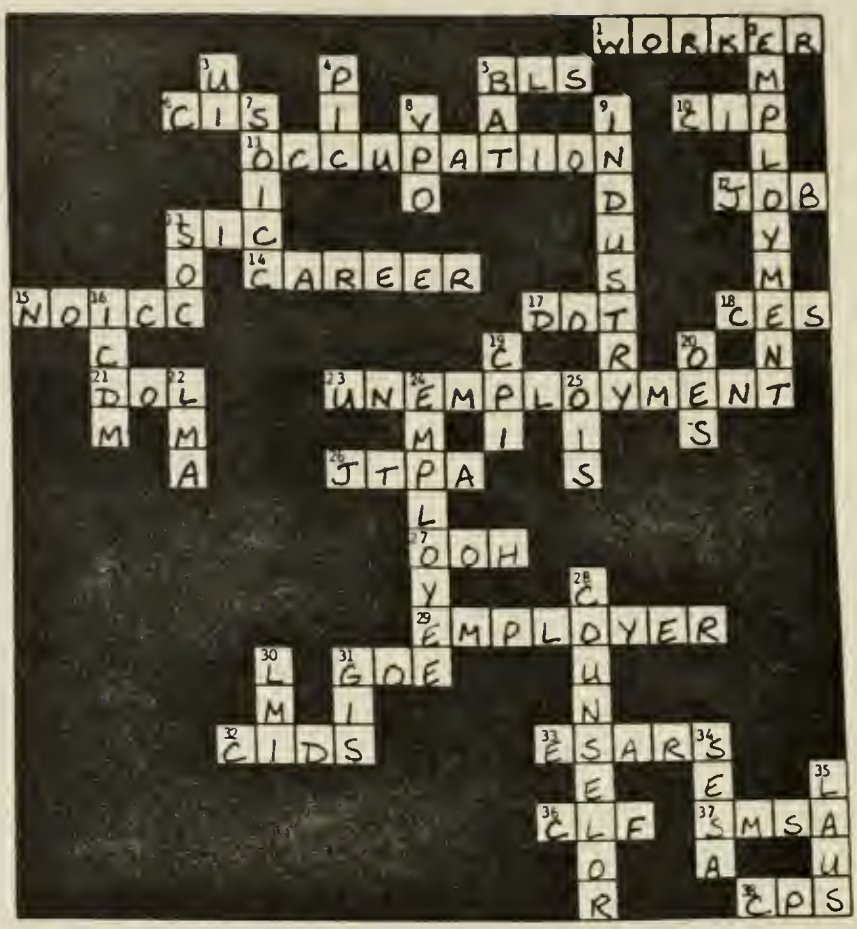
College to Career: The Guide to Job Opportunities: Written by career development authority Joyce Slayton Mitchell, this book helps high school students plan their education programs doing part-time work to prepare for a career. The 260-page book provides up-to-date information on more than 100 jobs in all major fields. $9.95. The College Board, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10023-6917.

Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in the Food and Agricultural Sciences: Summary report of a national assessment on the promising careers in food and agriculture. A free copy is available to vocational agriculture departments by writing Higher Education Programs, United States Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, Washington, DC 20250.



We know you've been waiting anxiously for the answers to this puzzle...!

If you have questions about the acronyms in the puzzle, write the Montana SOICC, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624.



Occupationally Yours...

Dear Mom and Dad,

Just a note wishing you a happy Grandparents' Day. Fennimore, our darling underachiever, now has a position as a safety superintendent at an optional swimsuit area during the summer. This leaves his winters free. So restful.

Rory became disenchanted with the narrow scope of selling previously owned motor homes, and has finally found a higher position with the vertical transportation corps, although it does have its ups and downs. And Alistaire has just been raving about the soul expanding experiential depths of his short stay at the State facility after that little courtroom thing. He's doing very well now as a mixologist and billiards monitor at that quaint little bistro near the wharves. Gwendolyn's new marriage to the freelance turf accountant is going so well she may give up her ecdysiast career in favor of going to gaming school. That's all for now. I'll explain more in the answer box.

ANSWER BOX

Fennimore, the dumb one, is a lifeguard at a nude beach but unemployed in the winter. Rory is now an elevator operator after failing at selling used trailers. Alistaire was in the slammer for perjury and now is bartending and racking pool tables at the dive on the waterfront. Gwendolyn's bookie hubbie is doing so well she's giving up striptease in favor of hustling cards.

Reprinted from Hawaii SOICC Newsletter

ICDM REGISTRATION FORM

YES, please register me in the following Improved Career Decision Making (ICDM) workshop:

☐ **March 29-31 at the Sheraton Missoula, 200 South Pattee Street; phone number 721-8550.**

☐ I will be staying at the Sheraton Missoula.

☐ **April 12-14 at the Sheraton Great Falls, 400 10th Avenue South; phone number 727-7200, or toll-free number 800-626-8000.**

☐ I will be staying at the Sheraton Great Falls.

☐ **April 26-28 at the Billings Ramada Inn, 1223 Mullowney Lane; phone number 248-7151.**

☐ I will be staying at the Billings Ramada Inn.

When making your room reservation, be sure to reference that you will be attending the Department of Labor and Industry's ICDM workshop to receive the state rate of $24 single occupancy.

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____

_____

Send coupon to:
Montana SOICC
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624

Kate Kahle, Editor
Montana SOICC Newsletter
Volume Five - Number Three

Robert N. Arnold, Program Officer
Montana SOICC

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, contact the Montana SOICC at P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624. The Montana SOICC reserves the right to edit all information submitted.

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If your address has changed, please indicate on this cover and return to the above address.

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650 copies of this newsletter were produced at an individual cost of 13.9¢, for a total cost of $90.28, which includes $34.03 for printing and $56.25 for distribution.

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